

SENATE BILL No. 400

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-14.5.

Synopsis: Biliteracy. Establishes the state seal of biliteracy to recognize public school graduates who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language. Requires the state board of education to adopt rules and to direct the department of education to administer the state seal of biliteracy program. Provides that a school corporation or charter school is not required to participate in the state seal of biliteracy program.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

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January 12, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Education & Career Development.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 400

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-30-14.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2015]:
- 4 **Chapter 14.5. State Seal of Biliteracy**
- 5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "foreign language" refers to any**
- 6 **language other than English, including:**
- 7 **(1) modern languages;**
- 8 **(2) Latin;**
- 9 **(3) American Sign Language;**
- 10 **(4) Native American languages; and**
- 11 **(5) native languages.**
- 12 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "seal" refers to the state seal of**
- 13 **biliteracy created under section 3 of this chapter.**
- 14 **Sec. 3. (a) The state seal of biliteracy is created to:**
- 15 **(1) encourage students to study languages;**
- 16 **(2) certify the attainment of biliteracy;**



(3) provide employers with a method of identifying individuals with language and biliteracy skills;

(4) provide postsecondary educational institutions with an additional method to recognize applicants for admission;

(5) prepare students with twenty-first century skills;

(6) recognize the value of foreign language and native language instruction in public schools; and

(7) strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community.

(b) The seal certifies the attainment of a high level of proficiency by a public high school graduate, sufficient for meaningful use in college and a career, in one (1) or more languages in addition to English.

(c) A school corporation or charter school is not required to participate in the seal program.

Sec. 4. The state board shall:

(1) establish the criteria for earning a seal, including:

(A) the number of credits a student must earn in English and language arts and in a language other than English; and

(B) assessments of foreign language proficiency the state board considers necessary;

(2) direct the department to prepare and deliver to participating school corporations and charter schools an appropriate mechanism for designating the seal on a student's diploma and transcript indicating the student has been awarded a seal; and

(3) direct the department to provide any other information the state board considers necessary for school corporations and charter schools to successfully participate in the seal program.

Sec. 5. A participating school corporation or charter school shall:

(1) maintain appropriate records to identify students who have earned a seal; and

(2) make the appropriate designation on the diploma and transcript of each student who earns a seal.

Sec. 6. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a student may not be charged a fee to receive a seal under this chapter.

(b) If necessary, a student may be required to pay a fee to demonstrate proficiency in a language, including the cost of a



- 1 **standardized test to determine proficiency.**
- 2 **Sec. 7. The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**
- 3 **carry out this chapter.**

